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November 18, 1965

Dr. Robert F. Thorne
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 N. College Ave.
Claremont, California

Dear Dr. Thorne:

Hope some of the enclosed are not too far gone when you receive them. Plastic makes a nice neat wrapping, but when plants are a little damp they seem to deteriorate pretty rapidly.

Nos. 1 & 2 - From Dyer, Nevada: "The large red-veined leaf is from a volunteer plant. No one seems to know what it might be and I did not plant it. It is growing in a shaded spot that gets a fair amount of water. Has grown to about 14 inches since spring and has been subjected to 20 degrees above zero in the past couple of weeks. There were no indications of a blossom. The smaller leaf is also a mystery plant. Since August it grew to about 10 inches in a pot in which I planted a cluster of berries picked in either Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri or Illinois. Anyway, in this pot up came 4 coxcomb plants and this odd-ball. It had two beautiful lavender trumpet-shaped blossoms about 2 inches long and seed pods are in a spiny ball-shaped affair - green as yet. Would like to know the names of the plants, general growing conditions, size to expect, annual or perennials, and what to do to keep them growing." (that's a pretty large order; seems to me they will probably have to remain mystery plants - mm.)

Acer negundo

Datura

No. 3 - from Novato, Marin Co.: "I made some cuttings of a shrub that grew in a park. They rooted readily. Seem to do equally well in shade or bright sun. Have been unable to find a similar plant in any nursery. It almost grows like a weed; in a year's time it is nearly rootbound in a 5-gallon can."

Comp. Eupatorium

No. 4 - from Firebaugh, Fresno County: "In Michigan this was called foxtail. What is it here? It grows 6 to 8 feet tall."

Conyza canadensis

No. 5 - from Firebaugh: "Is this a pigweed? In tall corn it will grow a foot or more taller; ear corn 10 or 11 feet" (Amaranthus retroflexus???)

Amaranthus

The last two specimens were sent in a huge box containing practically the entire plants. Hope what I've sent will suffice.

Have a nice Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Marjorie McAlinden

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